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CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1954.

GATE HOUSE,

CHEPSTOW, MON.

November, 1955.

TEL. NO. 2657.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman.

Mr. Councillor L. Price. J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Councillor S.J. Ryan.

COUNCILLORS:-

Mrs. M. Collins. J.P.

Mr. C.E.A. Morgan.

Mr. D.H. Davies.

Mr. A.T.B. O'Neill.

Mr. A.J. James.

Mr. H.R. Pinchard.

Mr. W.G. James.

Mr. P.H. Price.

Mr. T.F.H. Lang.

Mrs. S.B. Rees.

Mr. G.T. Meddins.

Mr. S.J. Richards.

Mr. R. Williams.

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. A. Gill.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. E. McC. Taylor.

Rating Officer and Collector.

Mr. W.A. Hood.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. E.N. Dowell.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gate House,

CHEPSTOW, Mon.

November, 1955.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the
Chepstow Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year ended 31st December 1954.

The health of the district was satisfactory. As in 1953 there were no notifications of diphtheria. As in 1953 and 1952 there were no deaths attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Taylor for his help and co-operation.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

E.N. DOWELL.

Medical Officer of Health.



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Number of Inhabited Premises:-

TOTAL: 1,829

Actual 1954/55. £139. 2s. 6.207d.

Monmouthshire County Council. 13s. 0d.

TOTAL: £1. 1s. 8d.

The number of live births has increased in the last two years. There were 94 in 1953 and 81 in 1952.

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	-	1	1

The following gives a list of infant deaths under one year of age giving age at and cause of death:-

(i) Female. 21 hrs. Erythroblastosis Foetalis.

In 1953 there were 3 deaths of infants under one year. In 1952 there were 5 deaths.

DEATHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths.	48	23	71

There were 98 deaths in 1953 and 59 in 1951 and 1952.

As in 1953 and 1952 there were no deaths attributed to Pregnancy, Childbirth, or Abortion.

In 1953 there were 3 deaths attributed to malignant neoplasm of bronchus and 26 to vascular lesions of the nervous system 15 males and 11 females. The deaths attributed to coronary disease were 6 males and 2 females in 1953.

Of the total deaths, 37 were 70 years or over at the time of death.

This compares favourably with 1953 when there were 33.

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

DIPHTHERIA.

As in 1953 there were no cases notified.

IMMUNISATION.

Of the children born in the years 1953, 1952, 1951 and 1950, at the end of the year, 39, 43, 36 and 50 were immunised.

At the end of 1953, the number immunised was 3, 38, 33 and 47. In 1953 the total number of live births was 94 and 1952 it was 81. In 1951 it was 85. This is a low percentage of children who were born in the years 1953, 1952, 1951, and 1950. It was hoped to secure immunisation of not less than 75 per cent of babies before their first birthday.

Only one child born in 1954 was immunised before the end of the year.

During the year Chopstow Junior Mixed School was visited and 3 were given a booster dose and 4 completed their first immunisation course.

SCARLET FEVER.

No cases were notified. There were eight notifications in 1952.

MEASLES.

There was one notification compared with 22 in 1953.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

There were two notifications during the year.

POLIOMYELITIS.

There were no notifications.

A male aged 60 years died at the Ministry of Health Hospital on the 9. 5. 54. At the inquest the cause of death was discovered to be due to a Toxic Encephalitis. This was a rare variety called Wernicke's Polopencephalitis Haemorrhagica Superior. It is probable that this condition is a degenerative rather than an inflammatory process.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Primary Notifications.

The following were the notifications of new cases received during the year:-

(i)	Female	-	age	32 years.	Lungs.
(ii)	Male	-	age	61 years.	Lungs.
(iii)	Male	-	age	42 years	Lungs.
(iv)	Female	-	age	67 years.	Lungs.
(v)	Male	-	age	27 years.	Lungs.
(vi)	Female	-	age	32 years.	Lungs.
(vii)	Male	-	age	76 years.	Lungs.

In 1952, 7 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

As in 1953 and 1952 there were no deaths attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED AGE GROUPS.						TOTAL ALL Ages.
	Under 1 yr.	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 and over.
Diphtheria. Scarlet Fever. Enteric Fever. Pneumonia. Puerperal Typhexia Cerebro-spinal Fever. Acute Poliomyelitis. Enceph. Lethargica. Dysentery, Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Measles, and German Measles Whooping Cough. Erysipelas.		3	1	1			1 4
TOTALS:-		3	1	1			5

DEATHS IN CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT 1954.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Acute Poliomyelitis.	1	
Other infective parasitic diseases.	1	
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	2	
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	1	
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.		1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.		1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	4	2
Vascular lesions of Nervous System.	3	5
Coronary Disease, Angina.	7	2
Other Heart Disease.	7	6
Other Circulatory Disease.	1	
Bronchitis.	5	
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	1	
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.	2	
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	3	
Hyperplasia of Prostate.	1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	6	4
All other accidents.	1	1
Suicide.	2	
<u>ALL CAUSES.</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>23</u>

HOUSING.

PRE-WAR.

Under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1930 the Council took the following action:-

- 11 Clearance Orders were made and confirmed involving 94 dwellings and outhouses and displacing 295 persons.
- 2 Demolition Orders were made and 5 persons were displaced in the consequence.
- 58 Dwellings were made fit for human habitation as a result of formal action under Sections 9 to 12 of the Housing Act, 1930 and by reason of the conversion of dwellings into a lesser number 14 persons were displaced.

To accommodate the total of 314 persons displaced as a result of the Slum Clearance Programme 74 (3 - bedroom non-parlour type) houses were erected by the Council at St. Tecla, Bulwark.

POST-WAR.

1953 was the peak year in the Council's Housing activities since no less than 160 dwellings were completed and occupied and at the 31st December 1953, 82 houses were in course of construction and nearing completion. As the Council were anxious to break the 'hard-core' of the local housing problem as quickly as possible, it was necessary to embark upon substantial contracts for houses of the new traditional type; the local labour pool being too small to undertake large contracts with quick completion dates.

The Council are indeed to be congratulated on their very vigorous housing programme. At the 31st December, 1954, 432 houses had been completed in the post-war years, equivalent to 74 houses per 1,000 of the population. No doubt on this bases the Council's achievements must rank amongst the highest in the country.

At the 31st December, 1954, the post-war position is summarised as follows:-

POST-WAR Housing (Contd).

Progress.

<u>Year ended 31st December.</u>	<u>Number of Houses Completed.</u>
1947	2
1948	22
1949	19
1950	25
1951	88
1952	-
1953	160
1954	116
	<u>432</u>
TOTAL:	<u>432</u>

Types.

Traditional.	110	2 Bedroom (Maisonettes)	32
"Cornish Units"	80	2 Bedroom houses	14
"No-Fines"	242	3 Bedroom houses.	355
		4 Bedroom houses	31
	<u>432</u>		<u>432</u>

398 houses were built in the Bulwark area of the District and the remaining 34 at Moun-ton Road. In consequence of the rapid development of the Bulwark Area the Council sold two sites for Places of Worship to be built by The Church in Wales and the Salvation Army and arrangements are well in hand for the provision of six shops with flats over to be constructed by the Council. In addition 16 lock up garages have been built by the Council.

TEMPORARY HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

No temporary prefabricated houses have been erected by the Council but, with the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the under-mentioned temporary dwellings were provided:-

St. Maur College - converted into five flats.	5	
St. Maur - Nissen Huts converted.	12	
Bulwark Camp - converted concrete Hutments.	88	105.

TEMPORARY HOUSING ACCOMMODATION (Contd).

It is generally agreed that these temporary dwellings are very substandard but they met an urgent need when the shortage of housing accommodation was so acute. It is the Council's intention to close down these Schemes as soon as possible and at the 31st December, 1954, of these 105 temporary dwellings units only 41 were occupied the tenants of 64 having been rehoused by the Council.

These temporary dwellings were provided under the Government's Emergency Housing Scheme and the following amounts have been returned to the Exchequer towards the cost of adaptations:-

	£.	s.	d.
Year ended 31st March, 1953.	1,278.	19.	2.
Year ended 31st March, 1954.	1,008.	9.	2.
Year ended 31st March, 1955.	211.	0.	5.
	<hr/>		
TOTAL:	2,498.	8.	9.
	<hr/>		

HOUSING ASSOCIATION.

As mentioned in previous reports the Council entered into an agreement under the powers contained in Section 93 and 94 of the Housing Act, 1936, with the Red and White Housing Association, as a result of which the Association receive the Exchequer Grant of £16. 10s. 0d. per annum in respect of each house.

The Council made a loan of £7,020 to the Association.

The six houses were completed and occupied during 1949.

THE SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS, 1899 - 1923.

The Acts were adopted on the 28th January, 1946. At the 31st December, 1954 the Council had advanced or agreed to advance to 18 borrowers the sum of £28, 988.

POST-WAR HOUSING BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

At the 31st December, 1954, 37 houses had been completed and occupied by private enterprise and 2 were in course of erection.

ALLOCATION OF TENANCIES OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council still operate a "points scheme" for selecting tenants for permanent accommodation although in recent allocations there has been a deviation to give greater emphasis to the local residential qualification. The members had found that although the points scheme was invaluable in sifting the applications, its operation in entirety had the effect of almost excluding completely the younger married couples.

15 tenancies of the 34 houses in Moun-ton Road were specially allocated to members of the Hospitals' staffs in Chepstow. The rapid expansion of the Hospitals in Chepstow and the need to find accommodation for members of the staffs made it imperative that special consideration be given to this problem.

DEMAND FOR PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION.

At the 31st December, 1954, there were 384 applications outstanding although the true demand might be determined at 259 in the manner following:-

Number of outstanding applications.	384
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DEDUCT:-

Number of old houses which would become available on removals and which might be regarded as suitable for other applicants.	50
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Number of applications from persons who have never resided in the area and who do not work in the town.	<u>75</u>	<u>125</u>
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<u>NET DEMAND:</u>	<u>259</u>
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As compared with 144 last year.

GRANTS - IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS.

No applications were received during the year for grants for improving or converting old houses under the Housing Act, 1949 and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1954.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Inspections of the District were carried out as required under the Housing and Public Health Acts, and nuisances found as a result were adapted almost entirely without result to formal action.

A regular and systematic inspection of houses coming within the scope of the Housing Acts was not possible, but a number of dwellings which were found to be in such a state as to be prejudicial to health were repaired as a result of informal and formal action by the Council.

The coming into force of the Rents and Repairs Act will mean that a detailed inspection of all houses will in time be completed, and the Council will undoubtedly make provision in their new Housing schemes for families who will be displaced as a result of action under the Slum Clearance provisions of the Housing Acts.

In an endeavour to preserve the older type of houses, which are structurally sound, but which lack the modern conveniences now required by families, grants are available to the Owners. In this way it is hoped that this class of property will not deteriorate, and so become the slums of to-morrow. It is also possible for the Owners of houses to increase the rents in certain circumstances, where repairs are carried out to houses which are not up to standard.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Complaints received.	119
Visits made in connection therewith.	198
Nuisances found.	29
Nuisances abated.	25
Informal Notices Served.	
(a) Public Health Act.	8
(b) Housing Acts.	4
Formal Notices Served.	
(a) Public Health Act.	Nil
(b) Housing Acts.	1
Cattle Market Visits.	40
Shops Acts.	
Food premises visited.	24
Slaughterhouses.	116.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

The undermentioned visits were carried out during the year in connection with the administration of the Factories and Workshops Acts:-

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of		M/c line No. (7)
			Insp. (4)	Written Notices (5)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	6	6	-	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	32	25	-	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	3	-	-	-	Nil
TOTAL		48	31	-	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three, or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found.			No. of cases in which prosecut- ions were instituted.	M/c line No.
		Found Remedied	To H.M. Insp.	To H.M. Insp.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(8)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	4					4
Overcrowding (S.2).	5					5
Inreasonable Temperature (S.3)	6					6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7					7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).	8					8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).	9					9
(a) Insufficient						
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10					10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11					11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	12					12
TOTAL	60					60

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Wholesale Producers within the Urban District.	5
No of Retail Purveyors within the Urban District.	1
No. of Retail Purveyors outside the District selling within the area.	2

MILK (Special Designations) Orders.

No. of Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.	1
No. of Retailers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.	2
No. of Pasteurising Establishments.	1
No. of Retailers of Pasteurised Milk.	2

The whole of the milk supply within the Urban District is either Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised), or Pasteurised.

A number of samples were taken during the year for examination by the Phosphatase or Methylene Blue Reduction test, and in each case the milk was found to be satisfactory. No samples were submitted for biological examinations.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Extensions were made during the year to the Council's sewerage system to serve the Council's new Housing site at Bulwark. There are three main outfalls into the River Wye, Controlled by penstock valves.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Almost the whole of the dwelling houses within the Urban District are provided with water closets connected up to the Council's sewerage system. A small number of dwellings are drained into cesspools, but as these are situated in the sparsely populated parts of the District no trouble is experienced.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply to the District is supplied by a Private Company, and is derived from three sources in the Chopstow Park area within the Chopstow Rural District Council. All water is subjected to chlorination by the "Chloramine" process. The supply is adequate, and routine samples are taken for both chemical and bacteriological examinations. Samples taken during the year showed that the water was suitable for a public and domestic supply.

WATER SUPPLY (contd).

A number of extensions to the mains were carried out during the year in connection with the Council's Housing Schemes and a small number of private houses.

The water is not subject to plumbo-solvency.

SWIMMING AND BATHING POOLS.

There are no swimming or bathing pools within the Urban District.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was found necessary by the Council or their Officers in connection with Smoke Abatement,

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

~~These~~⁴²⁶ premises were found to be verminous during the year, and works of disinfection were carried out by the Local Authority.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employ a part-time Rodent Operative, and treatment of land and premises is carried out in accordance with the recommendations of The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A free service is given to dwelling houses, whilst business premises are charged on a Cost of Works basis.

The undermentioned visits were paid during the year:-

Dwelling Houses visited.	12
Business Premises visited.	6
Visits to Other Premises.	6
Infestations found.	14
Treatment carried out by Local Authority.	24
Treatment carried out by Owner/Occupier.	Nil.

In addition the sewers were baited for rats twice during the year, but owing to the extremely steep gradients of the sewers, it is virtually impossible for rats to live in the sewers.

INSPECTION OF MEAT, AND OTHER FOODS.

When the scheme of The Ministry of Food for the centralised slaughtering of fat stock came to an end in July, the Council licensed one Private Slaughterhouse in the Urban District, where a comparatively small amount of killing took place during the year. The inspection of meat was carried out in accordance with Memo. 62/ Foods by a qualified Inspector.

INSPECTION OF MEAT, AND OTHER FOODS (Contd).

The undermentioned are the number of animals slaughtered during the year:-

<u>CATTLE.</u>	<u>COWS.</u>	<u>SHEEP.</u>	<u>PIGS.</u>
39	Nil.	197	4

One whole carcass, and small amounts of offal were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

The inspection of the Butchers shops and premises where food is prepared was carried out during the year, and on the whole a high standard of cleanliness was observed.

The undermentioned goods were voluntarily surrendered during the year as being unfit for human consumption:-

Apricots.	16 tins.	Luncheon Meat	14 tins.
Apples.	4 "	Lobster.	1 "
Baked Beans.	19 "	Minced Beef.	3 "
Blackcurrants.	30 "	Meat loaf.	3 "
Beef.	87 lbs.	Mustard.	1 "
Biscuits.	$\frac{1}{2}$ tin.	Oranges.	6 "
Beef and Cereal.	3 tins.	Ox Tongue.	4 "
Bacon.	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Orange Juice.	3 "
Cherries.	8 tins.	Peas.	36 "
Corned Beef.	3 "	Pears.	2 "
Cat Food.	5 "	Peaches.	7 "
Cream.	12 "	Paste.	2 "
Crab.	1 "	Pineapple.	24 "
Crayfish.	2 "	Pig Tongues.	3 "
Cooked Ham.	9 "	Pilchards.	7 "
Cooked Ham.	13 lbs.	Pork.	15 "
Dog Food.	10 tins.	Pig Hearts.	1 "
Damsons.	2 "	Plums.	10 "
Evaporated Milk.	52 "	Rabbit Boneless.	3 "
Fruit Salad.	3 "	Salted Almonds.	3 "
Grapes.	3 "	Salmon.	1 "
Grapefruit.	3 "	Sardines.	7 "
Ground Rice.	176 lbs.	Smoked Haddock.	14 lbs.
Gooseberries.	2 tins.	Steak & Vegetable.	2 tins.
Herrings.	28 "	Stewed Steak.	16 "
Herrings.	$\frac{1}{2}$ stone.	Slids.	2 tins.
Hake.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Shrimps.	13 "
Irish Stew.	1 tin.	Strained Foods.	2 "
Jellied Veal.	11 "	Semolina.	24 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Kippers.	4 stone.	Spaghetti.	3 tins.
Tomatoes.	68 tins.	Whiting.	$\frac{1}{2}$ stone.

CATTLE MARKET.

The Council control the Cattle Market, and as from July Markets were held once weekly, instead of fortnightly, at the request of the local Auctioneers. Up and to the beginning of July the Market was used as a collecting Centre by The Ministry of Food for fat stock.

Animals entering the Market during the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1954, were as follows:-

<u>CATTLE.</u>	<u>CALVES.</u>	<u>SHEEP.</u>	<u>PIGS.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1,663	1,093	16,451	3,252	22,459

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Domestic and trade refuse was collected once weekly from premises until the end of August, when the new Shelvoko and Drowry 16/18 cubic yard Fore and Aft Refuse Collecting vehicle was put into operation. The use of this larger vehicle enables a twice weekly collection to be maintained, and will undoubtedly meet the needs of additional dwellings which will be built during the next few years, although it might well be that an additional loader will have to be recruited.

Disposal is effected by tipping in a large depression adjacent to the Chepstow Racecourse, which should meet the needs of the District for many years.

The collection of waste paper is carried out regularly, but owing to the rather low and fluctuating price of waste paper, some difficulty was experienced in disposing of same.

A point of concern to the Department was the use of old tins, drums, boxes, etc., as dustbins, and whilst informal notices were served on Owners and Occupiers with some success, there is no doubt that the law relating to the provision of dustbins requires amendment.

